

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 224797

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TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: MORNING WIRE REPORTS AND NEWSPAPER COVERAGE BY

TRAVELING PRESS, OCTOBER 11

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

MORNING WIRE REPORTS:

1. REUTERS (NELSON) LEADS FROM DAMASCUS WITH ACCIDENTAL GUNSHOT STORY, AS REPORTED BY RADIO. SAYS KISSINGER APPARENTLY AGREED WITH SADAT ON NEXT STAGE OF PEACE EFFORTS, THOUGH SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS GAVE NO DETAILS OF TALKS AND WOULD NOT CONFIRM THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED. OFFICIALS REPORTED NOT EXPECTING SPECIFIC ACTION UNTIL AFTER RABAT SUMMIT. REPORTS HINTS THAT NEXT STEP MIGHT BE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI MEETING IN GENEVA TO DISCUSS FURTHER ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IN SINAI, COUPLED WITH ISRAELI COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATE IN OTHER AREAS. DESCRIBES PLANS FOR TALKS WITH HUSSEIN TOMORROW, WHILE MENTIONING THAT RABIN WILL NOT DEAL WITH JORDAN UNTIL AFTER ELECTIONS. PROGRESS ON SYRIAN FRONT DESCRIBED AS FAR MORE DIFFICULT, AND VISITS TO DAMASCUS TODAY AND NEXT MONDAY AS MERELY UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 224797

TO INFORM ASSAD OF PROGRESS ELSEWHERE, THOUGH EXPRESSING

OPTIMISM FOR EXTENTION OF UN MANDATE IN GOLAN HEIGHTS.
SADAT VISIT TO USA ARRANGED FOR END OF JANUARY OR EARLY
FEBRUARY, ACCORDING TO SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS.

2. AP (SCHWEID) LEADS WITH GUNSHOT STORY, TIES IT WITH
BOMBING OF NCR OFFICE. KISSINGER MET BY KHADDAM, WITH
WHOM HE WILL TALK, AS WELL AS ASSAD. BLACKOUT ON PLANE
FOR NEWSMEN REPORTED, BUT IMPRESSION GAINED THAT TALKS
WITH SADAT LESS FRUITFUL THAN HOPED. REPORTS THAT A
MAP SEEN BEING CARRIED INTO MEETING WITH SADAT, ALTHOUGH
ONLY "GENERAL CONCEPTS" REPORTED DISCUSSED.
REPORTS LEAKS BY EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS OF KISSINGER PROPOSAL
FOR LOW-LEVEL TALKS IN GENEVA (AS IN REUTERS) BUT SADAT
REJECTED THIS IDEA.

3. UPI (NO BYLINE) LEAD WITH GUNSHOT STORY, CITED KISSINGER
BEFORE DEPARTING CAIRO THAT HE IS ENCOURAGED BY THE
PROGRESS AND BELIEVES HIS VISIT WILL HELP BRING PEACE.
REPORTS KISSINGER MEETING WITH SADAT UNTIL MIDNIGHT, AIMED
AT ARRANGING NEW TALKS BETWEEN ARABS AND ISRAELIS.
REPORTS KISSINGER PLAN TO RETURN TO CAIRO BEFORE STOPPING
IN ALGIERS ON HIS WAY HOME.

NEWSPAPER COVERAGE:

1. CHITRIB FINAL EDITION OCTOBER 10 CARRIES STARR STORY
ON KISSINGER'S FIRST MEETING WITH SADAT, REPORTS THAT
SECRETARY CARRIED LETTER FROM FORD. REPORTS HIGH HOPES
FOR SETTLEMENT IN AREA ON KISSINGER'S PART, AND THAT THIS
TRIP CAN FIND A NEW FORUM FOR TALKS. CITES U.S.
OFFICIALS ON PLANE WITH EMPHASIS ME OIL PRICE QUESTION
CANNOT BE DEALT WITH UNTIL CONSUMERS HAVE A COMMON
POSITION. REPORTS DISLIKE OF GENEVA FORUM BECAUSE OF
CHANCE THAT SOVIETS WILL INTRODUCE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION PROBLEM. EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN PROBLEM WAS SEEN
AS LINKED TO OTHER ARAB STATES, WHILE ISRAELI SOLUTION
ORIENTED TO DOMESTIC POLITICS.

2. NYTIMES (GWERTZMAN) REPORTS KISSINGER "ENCOURAGED"
AFTER LONG MEETING WITH SADAT, WHILE NOT GIVING ANY
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PAGE 03 STATE 224797

DETAILS UNTIL AFTER MEETING WITH LEADERS IN OTHER STOPS.
MAJORITY OF TIME WAS SPENT ON "NEXT STEP" IN SETTLEMENT.
FORMAT SOUGHT TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM OF TALKS, FOLLOWING
ON DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT EARLIER THIS YEAR. KISSINGER
REPORTED SEEKING TO ARRANGE ISRAELI-JORDANIAN TALKS TO
BEGIN SHORTLY AFTER EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS. REPEATS
DENIALS OF ANY PLAN TO MEET PLO OFFICIALS.

3. WASHPOST (BERGER) SAYS KISSINGER AND SADAT DISCUSSED
LINKING SINAI WITHDRAWAL BY ISRAEL WITH END OF "STATE
OF BELLIGERENCY" BY EGYPT. SADAT AVOIDED EMPHASIZING

GENEVA AS THE FORUM FOR FUTURE TALKS, BECAUSE OF
PROBLEM OF REPRESENTATION FOR PALESTINIANS. REPORTS THAT
SISCO SHUTTLE MAY BE PROPOSED TO START LOWER-LEVEL
TALKS, WHILE KISSINGER WOULD RETURN WHENEVER A TRIP
WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE. REPORTS ISRAELI VIEW THAT
WITHDRAWAL MORE THAN JUST TROOP SEPARATION, BUT STEP TO
BETTER RELATIONS WITH ARAB STATES. KISSINGER DECLINED TO
OUTLINE ANY TIME FRAME FOR THE NEXT STAGE OF SETTLEMENT.
SADAT REPORTED TORN BETWEEN ARAB SOLIDARITY AND EGYPTIAN
NEED FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HINGED TO ISRAELI-HELD
OIL IN SINAI.

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